Reviewer's report

Title: Prevention of cardiovascular diseases: a cost study in family practices

Version: 1 Date: 7 April 2011

Reviewer: Gary McLean

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions.

1) The paper explores spending on cardiovascular preventive activities and prescribing of primary cariovascular medication (PPCM) in Dutch family practices. However, my main issue is that there is no attempt to evaluate whether spending on one impacts on the other (i.e. does higher spending on cardiovascular preventive activities reduce prescribing and vice versa). There is already a considerable literature on variation in prescribing and reasons for this. The authors should therefore either add weight to their paper by combing the two issues under study here or explain in more detail why they have't or can't do this and why in it's present form the study is important and should in published in relation to other literature in the field.

2) There authors should define in more detail what is meant by PPCM what drugs where used and why.

3) The authors should answer how the possible disparity between costs and volume might impact on their findings for prescribing.

4) The authors should define in more detail what is meant by disadvantaged neighbourd and outline other factors not accounted for which might impact on variations on prescribing such as ethnicity.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.